Abstract:

Debt has a controlling interest in higher education. Wage stagnation maintains a system of exploitation among hourly laborers. Live paycheck to paycheck or be crushed by debt. Maybe both at the same time. While the promise of a good job or a living wage continues to remain just outside your grasp. Control is maintained by a series of devices that prey on the physical and the psychological parts of our bodies. How we maintain a sense of control depends upon our perception of reality.

a floor mat for comfort
a floor mat for control

a format for comfort
a format for control

a toll for comfort
a toll for control

How much do you currently owe? How much will you owe after you graduate? Debt becomes an archive. A series of transactions and promissory notes. There is no comfort in debt. When debt takes control there is a toll. Education is a privilege when it should be a right.

Job Review 1 (excerpt):

> One of the worst things about this company was the management or rather the complete lack of any. Communication was extremely poor to nonexistent, especially when creating a clear plan for getting things done on a day to day basis.

Job Review 2 (excerpt):

> There was a lack of awareness, protocol and willful ignorance towards aspects of visitor to staff interactions in terms of safety and respect. I felt uncomfortable going to work and did not feel like I could do my job to the best of my abilities.
>
> The "Art World" at large perpetuates a culture that preys on workers (who are often artists themselves or appreciate the arts) to take underpaid or volunteer positions with the hopes that they will be accepted for better positions that might have benefits.

David Ian Bellows/Griess (pronouns: they/them) explores themes of control, labor, and sexual play through diy surveillance to relay the physicality and the resilience of the body.

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Fig. 1 – Wage Stagnation, David Ian Bellows/Griess, 2019. Camera Operator Elizabeth Lamb.